

Pasadena Buddhist Church

50th
Anniversary





Pasadena Buddhist Church

50th Anniversary



1958 - 2008



Pasadena Buddhist Church
1993 Glen Avenue
Pasadena, California



Message

It is my pleasure that Pasadena Buddhist Church is observing the fiftieth anniversary.

I have heard that the Buddhist activities actually started in Pasadena around 1936. After World War II, in 1950, the sangha was officially launched as a branch temple of Los Angeles Homba Hongwanji Buddhist Temple. In April, one year later, the then-Monshu Ohtani Kosho and Lady Yoshiko visited Pasadena sangha, and this visit was the impetus for erecting a new structure for the sangha. As a result, in 1958, the *hondo* was completed on a new two-acre site, which was realized because of all the members' cooperative efforts. Since then, Pasadena Buddhist Church has been approved as a full-fledged temple of the Buddhist Churches of America, not as a branch of the *betsuin*. I would like to deliver my warmest congratulations for today's joyful occasion, which can be realized through the hard work and efforts by the *Issei*, and those of the *Nisei* and *Sansei* generation who received the spirit of their parents.

Also here in Kyoto, we will observe the Seven hundred fiftieth Memorial for Shinran Shonin in 2011. We hope that as many people as possible, from both domestic and foreign sanghas, will visit the Hongwanji for this occasion. Let us together prepare well to observe this once-in-fifty-year occasion.

It is my hope that you find this fiftieth anniversary as a great opportunity to listen to the teaching of the nembutsu and Pasadena Buddhist Church will continue to flourish.

September 18, 2008

K. Fujikawa

Bishop Kosho Fujikawa

Governor General

Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha



Founded 1899

BUDDHIST CHURCHES OF AMERICA
1710 Octavia Street
San Francisco, California 94109
Phone: (415) 776-5600
Fax: (415) 771-6293

OFFICE OF THE SOCHO, BISHOP

祝辞

パサデナ佛教会の50周年に祝辞を送ることができることは私の心からの喜びです。

一世パイオニアの御苦勞、そして50年の間献身下さった開教使を始め信徒の皆様の努力に敬意を表します。時代の流れをよく見て人々の要求に応じて新しく伝道の道を見い出されるようさらに一層の努力を念じます。

私のモットーは「暗中に模索することを生き甲斐とし試行錯誤を恐れず」ということです。

合掌

小杭好臣
米国佛教団総長

GREETINGS

It gives me great pleasure to convey to you my warmest congratulations on this occasion of the Pasadena Buddhist Church's 50th Anniversary.

I am deeply grateful to the Issei pioneers for their hard work and dedication, and to the ministers and members who have worked unselfishly for the betterment of this church over the past 50 years.

My motto is, "...to challenge oneself amidst the uncertainties of work and life, and not be afraid to try new things or make mistakes along the way." With this spirit, may you continue to move forward sharing the joy of the Buddha Dharma to those in your community and beyond.

Again, congratulations. And best wishes for a memorable and meaningful celebration.

Gassho,

Koshin Ogui, Socho
Bishop

September 14, 2008

PHONE: (415) 776-5600
FAX: (415) 771-6293



JODO SHINSHU HONGWANJI-HA

BUDDHIST CHURCHES OF AMERICA

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

1710 OCTAVIA STREET
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94109

September 14, 2008

Congratulations on your 50th anniversary!

On this very happy and memorable occasion, it gives me great pleasure on behalf of the Buddhist Churches of America to congratulate all of the members of the Pasadena Buddhist Church on reaching this significant milestone.

We honor the ministers and members past and present who dedicated themselves to the propagation of the Nembutsu teachings and supported the church during the past 50 years. Their legacy is a wealth of courage, dedication, and perseverance to the Buddha Dharma.

We hope the church will continue to be an important focal point in community activities and wish you continued success and prosperity for many years to come.

Sincerely in Gassho,

Billy H. Saeki, President
Buddhist Churches of America



July 2008

Greetings!

On behalf of the Southern District Council BCA, I would like to congratulate the Pasadena Buddhist Church on its 50th Anniversary. I also send a big thank you for the members, past and present, who have made the Church as great as it is today. Thanks to the pioneering Issei because without their foresight and diligent work, the Church would probably not exist.

Let us all reflect on our ancestors who spread the Buddhist Dharma throughout the United States. Again, congratulations and hope that the next 50 years brings growth and happiness for your Sangha.

In Gassho,

Jerry Sakamoto
Chairman, Southern District BCA

パサデナ仏教会五十周年記念法要に寄せて

仏教会創立五十周年記念法要を迎えられたことを、心から嬉しく思います。

サンデイスクールと日本語学校を開設したリンカーン街の時代から、このグレン街に新築した時代を経て早や半世紀、数々の思い出がよみがえり、仏教会を支えながら聞法に精進した数限りないみ法の友や諸先輩の皆様にただただ合掌させていただくばかりです。

このパサデナの大地にともされた仏法のともし火を消さないように、皆様のご健勝と念仏相続を心から念じあげます。

南無阿弥陀仏

2008年9月14日

中 垣 昌 美

Rev. Masami Nakagaki

パサデナ仏教会創立五十周年を皆様と御一緒にお迎えする事を心よりお祝い申し上げますと同時に今日まで御苦勞下さいました歴代開教使並門信徒の方々に感謝の意を表します。

これからは当仏教会がますますさかんなっていく様に百周年に向かって力強く第一歩を踏み出しましょう。 合掌

“念仏の輪が子や孫に”

広田徹然

Rev. Tetsunen Hirota



Congratulations on the 50th anniversary of the Pasadena Buddhist Church.

Many years have passed from the time of our church on Lincoln Ave. to the building of the present church on Glen Ave. Many of the pioneering members, such as Mr. Kameichi Ogawa and Mr. Yukio Nishimoto, have passed on and of the ministers only Rev. Masami Nakagaki, Rev. Tetsunen Hirota, Rev. Shinji Okada and I remain.

The Pasadena Sangha has carried on and celebrated its 50th anniversary. I sincerely hope and wish that it would continue in the same spirit of those who came before us.

In gassho,

Rev Shoki Mohri

August 2008



On Behalf of the Pasadena Buddhist Church, we want to congratulate all our members for their dedication in building and sustaining this temple for fifty years. Let us enjoy the legacy of our Parents, Grandparents and Great Grandparents for attaining the spirituality that they desired for us.

Reverend Shinji Okada and President Irene Takemori

Congratulatory Message

First, on this auspicious occasion of the 50th Anniversary of the establishment of the Pasadena Buddhist Church as an independent Church, I wish to convey my deeply felt "Congratulations".

During the half-century of its existence, six dedicated Resident Ministers, thirty-seven Board Presidents and countless Members have served the Church, all of them devout "fellow travelers on the Path of Faith and the Nembutsu".

For thirty-seven of those years, I was given the privilege of serving on a part-time basis, which allowed me to accept invitations to lecture at various seminars, college campuses and secular organizations, etc. For this privilege, I will forever remain indebted to the Pasadena Buddhist Church, the Resident Ministers under whom I had served and the members themselves.

Looking forward from this point on, may the Church, under the guidance of the Resident Minister, continue to serve as a "Lighthouse", shedding the light of the Dharma and Nembutsu, thereby guiding not only its members but all those who come to it, away from danger and toward the safe shores of Faith, Salvation and Enlightenment.

Namuamidabutsu

Gassho,

Rev. Tetsuo Unno

Rev. Tetsuo Unno



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SEPTEMBER 2008



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MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH
Supervisor, Fifth District

Ministers



Rev. Masami Nakagaki 1958-1961



Rev. Shoki Mohri 1961-1969



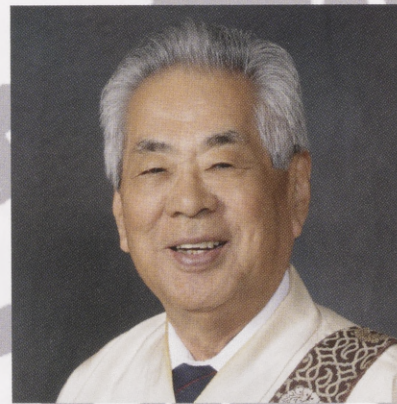
Rev. Sadamaru Ouchi 1969-1978



Rev. Tetsuo Unno 1972-



Rev. Tesshin Kakimoto 1978-1980



Rev. Tetsunen Hirota 1980-1999



Rev. Shinji Okada 2000-2008

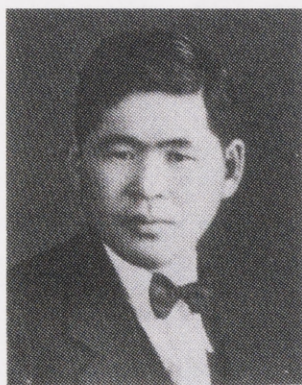


Pasadena Buddhist Church

Presidents



Kameichi Ogawa
1950-52, 54, 58



Takuhichi Yamada
1953



Takuji Doi
1955



Yukio Nishimoto
1956



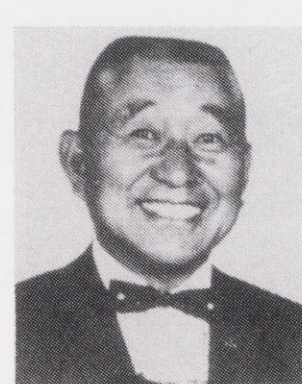
Masao Nishimoto
1957, 61



Ken Yamaguchi
1959



Ichiro Masumoto
1960



Tom Suechika
1962-63, 68, 69



John Yoneda
1964



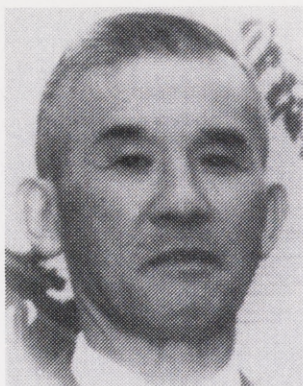
Yoshio Yonesawa
1965, 78



Shigeo Nakanishi
1966



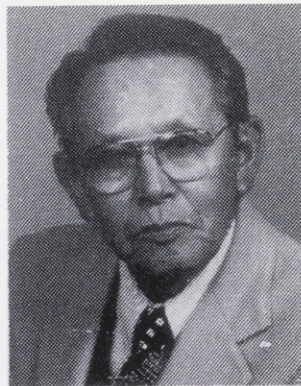
Akira Hirata
1967



Masashi Hamano
1970



Kiwamu Domen
1971-72



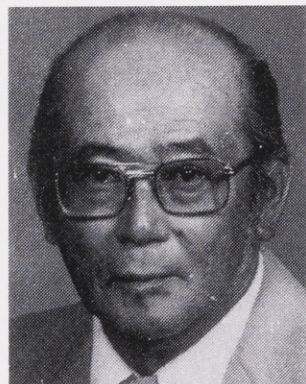
Hiroshi Hamada
1972-73



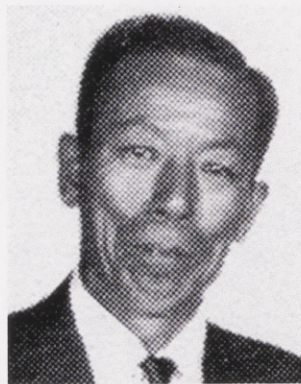
Roy Nishimura
1974-75



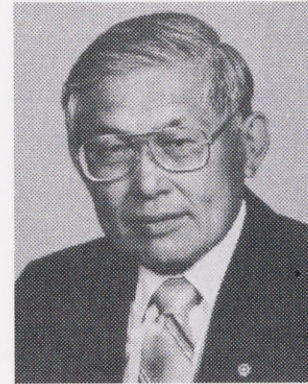
Shigeo Ito
1976-77, 83, 86



Marcus Muraki
1979



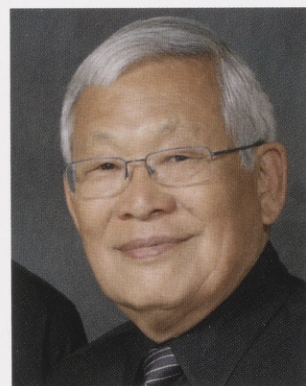
Naoto Morimoto
1980



Mack Oyama
1981



Edward Takemori
1982, 84-85, 87-88, 93-94



Takashi Kiriya
1989-90, 2001-04



George Yamane
1991-92, 99-2000



Shuichi Ogura
1995-98



Irene Takemori
2005-

Pasadena Buddhist Church Board



First Row: Takashi Kiriyaama, Shinobu Kiriyaama, Rev. Shinji Okada, Irene Takemori, Alan Hatakeyama
Back Row: John Kehoe, Roy Kikkawa, Shuichi Ogura, Edward Takemori, Gerald Ito

Not Pictured: Bobby Fukumoto, James Hirano, Russell & Corky Ishikawa, Hatsumi & Kazuo Kitani, Wesley & Kathy Kumagai, Misako Morihiro, Albert Nakata, Clifford Nakatani, Roy Nishimura, Yukie Okazaki, John Ozawa, Scott & Shelly Shinmoto, Ronald & Jeannie Toshima, George Yamane

Dharma School



First Row: Lindsey Hirano, Emil Olgin, Lia Meza, Kenny Okamoto, Madison Hirano

Second Row: Lani Masumoto, Emi Powers, Nicholas Masumoto, Lorie Meza, Kristin Kitani, Jon Powers, Kimberly Kitani

Third Row: Irene Takemori (Teacher), Kyle Shinmoto

Fourth Row: Melissa Meza, Dana Okamoto (asst. Teacher), Lynne Masumoto (Teacher), Ayako Hirano



Sado Urasenke
Pasadena Bukkyokai
Sei Sakai

First Row: Soka Sato (Teacher), Soju Sakahara (Teacher)

Second Row: Jose Salcedo, Soyo Oba, Somio Ikeda, Rio Yamanaka, Kimiko Sato, Ayako Okoso, Mitsuko Nakatomi, Atsuko Takehara, Ai Inada, Natasha Pense

Jr YBA



First row: Mark Castellanos, Kelsey Lee, Michelle Obi, Zoe Kumagai, Courtney Takeda, Kellie Yamahata, Andy Fujimoto.
Second row: Kenny Ideno, Curtis Jew



Pasadena Buddhist Women's Association



First Row: Fumiyo Omori, Janet Kurashita, Rev. Tetsuo Unno, Rev. Shinji Okada, Rev. Tetsunen Hirota, Yaeko Sakahara, Chiyoko Nishimura
Second Row: Tokiko Okada, Sachiko Hirota, Kaoru Nishimoto, Yoshi Takahashi, Hanako Sato, Chieko Yamane, Yukie Okazaki, Carol Oyama, Jane Inouye, Irene Takemori
Third Row: Toyoko Okida, Lynne Ozawa, Joanne Yamahata, Hatsumi Kitani, Sachiyo Hamada, Tomomi Yamasaki, Sayo Nakatani, Kathy Kumagai
Fourth Row: Jeannie Toshima, Sachi Watari, Shinobu Kiriya, Jeanne Ideno, Catherine Mikuni, Shelly Shimoto, Corky Ishikawa, Reiko Shishido, Yukiko Kataoka, Ayako Hirano

Fujin Kai Presidents

Yukie Hamano	Hatsuye Tarumoto	Yukiko Nakanishi
1951	1959, 68, 69, 74, 75, 81, 82, 85, 86, 90	1977
Hamako Otani	Minori Shintaku	Tatsuko Onishi
1951, 53	1960	1978
English	Japanese	Irene Takemori
Hatsuye Tarumoto	Minaye Yamashita	1995-2003
1954	Masaye Sakamoto	Lynne Ozawa
Tomi Ogura	Fumiye Yamashita	2004
1955	Fujiye Hiramoto	Yukie Okazaki & Misa Morihiro
Natsuko Kawasaki	Chiyoko Ogawa	2005-06
1956	Matsuko Kawasaki	Yukie Okazaki & Hatsumi Kitani
Minori Shintaku	Yukie Hamano	2007
1957	Kazumi Masumoto	Kathy Kumagai
Hanako Sato	Miyuki Nishimoto	2008
1958	Kiyoko Yonesawa	
	1972, 73, 90	

The First 50 Years of the Pasadena Buddhist Church

The Pasadena Buddhist Church started its Sunday School program in 1948, with the assistance of Rev. Daitetsu Hayashima and Ms. Toshi Nagata. In the same year, the church purchased property in Pasadena, and construction began on the new temple. Dedication ceremonies for the Pasadena Buddhist Church, a branch of L.A. Betsuin, were held on July 29, 1950 at 1106 Lincoln Ave. Six years later, the church was incorporated under its first president, Dr. Ken Yamaguchi. The BCA granted the church its independence in 1958.

In reaction to growing attendance and activities, the church purchased a two-acre avocado orchard in 1957, and began plans for expansion. In 1958, the Hondo and classrooms were completed, and the combination banquet hall and gymnasium was dedicated in 1960 as the Noboru Sakai Hall in honor of the member who had designed all three buildings. In 1964, the Urasenke School Headquarters in Kyoto donated an authentic tea house to the church. The structure was shipped in parts to Pasadena, re-assembled on the church grounds, and dedicated in 1965 with 15th Generation Tea Master Hounsai Oiemoto in attendance. The church then built the minister's residence in 1968, the ten-year anniversary of the church's independence, and completed a new parking lot in 1973, the fifteen-year anniversary. In 2006, church members started the 50th anniversary commemorative fund drive, and used the money to purchase an outdoor freezer, to re-tile the hondo's roof, and to repair and/or replace the plumbing of the entire complex.

The BCA assigned Rev. Masami Nakagaki as the church's first resident minister in 1958. Rev. Nakagaki was promoted to the position of Vice-Rinban of L.A. Betsuin in 1960, and Rev. Shoki Mohri became the new minister. He was transferred to Tacoma, WA, in 1969, and Rev. Sadamaro Ouchi became resident minister. He was joined by Rev. Tetsuo Unno in 1972, who assisted with activities and English services. When Rev. Ouchi was promoted to Rinban of Seattle Betsuin in 1978, Rev. Tesshin Kakimoto came out of retirement to work in Pasadena, but retire again in 1980 for health reasons. At that time, Rev. Tetsunen Hirota came from Watsonville, CA, to become minister, and when he retired in 1999, he was replaced by Rev. Shinji Okada, the current resident minister. Rev. Unno continues to assist with the church's development and activities.

Along with the Obon festival, the church has a variety of annual fundraisers. In 1971, Rev. Ouchi was instrumental in implementing the sukiyaki dinner. Besides introducing the idea, he traveled to Japan to find recipes and to purchase the equipment necessary for the project. Inspired by that idea, the church later started the Gourmet dinner and the Chicken Take-Out fundraiser. And every year for New Year's, the community gathers for mochitsuki, which is not only a source of income, but also fills a cultural tradition.

The 50-year history of the Pasadena Buddhist Church is a result of the guidance and assistance and inspiration of all of its reverends, presidents and sangha. It continues to serve its Sangha and the community, and continues to plan for growth.







Arai, Yoji & Candice



Fukumoto, Ritsue
Patrick & Maye Ryan, Ernest & Alison



Goto, Chiyoko



Hamada, Sachiyo



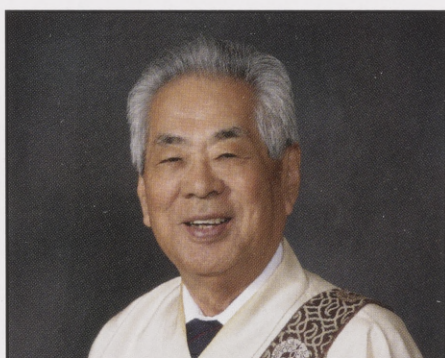
Hatakeyama, Alan & Lori



Hatakeyama, Mary



Hirota, Rev. Tetsunen & Sachiko



Hirota, Rev. Tetsunen



Inouye, Fred & Jane



Ishida, Nelson & Sharon



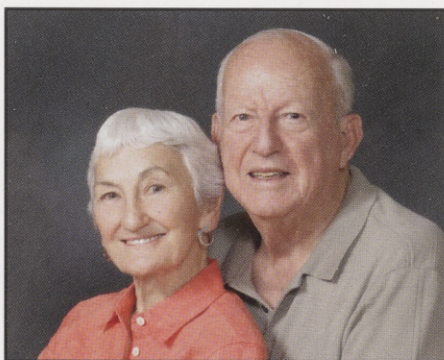
Ito, Gerald & Linda
Jennifer Ito, Valerie Kochi



Kawamoto, Chiyoko



Kawashima, Ted



Kehoe, John & Josephine



Kikkawa, Robert & Alice



Kikkawa, Roy



Kiriya, Takashi & Shinobu
Aki, Shoji



Kitani, Kaz & Hatsumi
Kristin, Kimberly, Kasi, Kylie



Komoto, Rob & Julie
Alan



Kurashita, Janet



Masumoto, Sam & Toshiko
Raymond & Lynne, Lani, Nicholas



Matsuba, Masae



Meza, Paul & Melissa
Lorie, Lia



Mohri, Rev. Shoki & Michiko



Morihiro, Misako



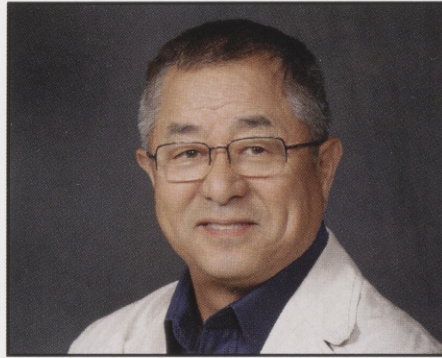
Nagatani, Kayo



Nakatani, Clifford & Sayo



Nakayama, Terry & Ida
Joann



Nishikawa, Mitsunori



Nishimoto, John & Kaoru



Nishimoto, Manabu & Kathy



Nishimoto, Shigeko



Nishimura, Roy & Chiyoko



Ogura, Shuichi



Okada, Rev. Shinji & Tokiko



Okamoto, Kenny & Donna



Okamoto, Roger & Midori



Okazaki, Sid & Yukie
Ken & Zeena, Kasey, Kyle, Rob & Julie, Alan



Okazaki, Sid & Yukie



Okida, Minoru & Toyoko



Omori, Fumiyo



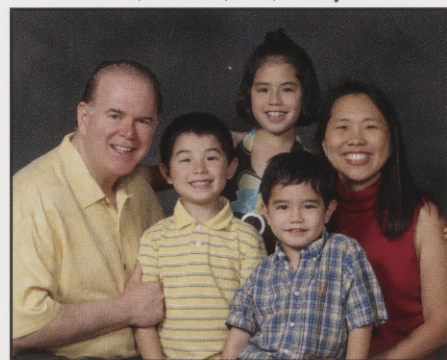
Oyama, Carol, Andy & Helen, Jim, Ricky & Lisa,
Parker, Kyle, Ryan, Audrey, Suzanne, Ray &
Thelma, Michale, Tim, Kasey Chin



Oyama, Mitsue



Ozawa, John & Lynne
Robert, Stephanie



Powers, Fred & Candice
Emi, John, Michael



Sakahara, Isamu & Yaeko



Sato, Hanako



Sato, Haruko



Shinmoto, Scott & Shelly
Kendall, Kyle



Sugihara, Chieko



Sugimoto, George & Ruri



Sunairi, Chiyeiko



Takahashi, Yoshiko



Takemori, Edward & Irene
Kyle, Terry, Nicholas, Eric



Takemori, Terry
Nicholas, Eric



Tamanaha, Roy & Frances
Troy, Tamara



Toshima, Ronald & Jeannie
Scott & Reiko, Mikala, Sean



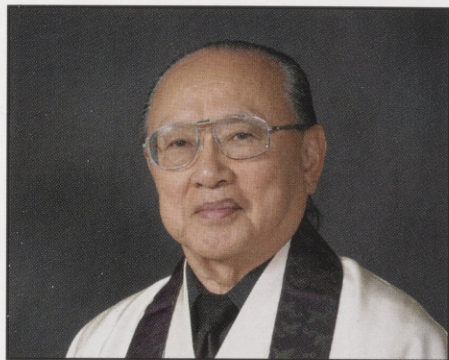
Toshima, Scott & Reiko
Mikala



Tsukida, Joe Hiro



Tsukimoto, Yoshie



Unno, Rev. Tetsuo



Wakasa, Mitsue



Watari, Joseph & Sachi



Yamane, Chieko



Yamane, George & Ann



Yamasaki, Tomomi



Yonesawa, Kiyoko













*Congratulations to the
Pasadena Buddhist Church
on it's 50th Anniversary*



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祝

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祝

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Congratulations
to the Pasadena Buddhist Church
On Your 50th Anniversary

From the Ito Family

The Late Shigeo and Toshiko Ito
Gerald Ito and Family
Dennis Ito and Family



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Congratulations to the Pasadena
Buddhist Church on your
50th Anniversary Celebration

In memory of Toshio Ishikawa

Kikuyo Ishikawa

Ken and Tomi Yoshikawa

Dyan Yoshikawa

Brian and Tami Yoshikawa

Danae and Ashlyn

Russell and Corky Ishikawa

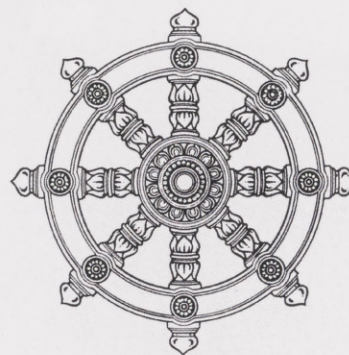
Kurtis, Ryan, and Sheena



Yukiko and Shigeo Nakanishi



Terri Nakata



**Congratulations on the
50th Anniversary of
the Pasadena Buddhist Church**

In Memory of
Mr. & Mrs. Shigeo Nakanishi
and Terri Nakata



***Congratulations
Pasadena Buddhist Church
on your 50th Anniversary***

Kelsey, Karina & Kayley Kawana



Notes

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Acknowledgements

Shinobu Kiriya
Takashi Kiriya
Kathy Kumagai
Alan Miyatake
Irene Takemori
Kyle Takemori
Pasadena Buddhist Church Sangha

Thank You to Toyo Miyatake for producing this booklet with us.



1.
TOYO
Miyatake